

## JIMMY M'GUIRE MODEST MANAGER

Cleveland Leader Refuses to  
Predict Where His Team  
Will Land.

NAPS MUST WORK HARD

No Room on the Team for  
Shirkers—Has Promising  
Young Pitcher.

Cleveland, Ohio, February 19.—Manager James M'Guire is no prophet. He admits it. Rather than try to predict where the Naps or any other American League club will finish he will carry bats for Cleveland this year.

"None of that 'doping the winners' for me," said M'Guire yesterday. "I never knew a man yet that made a prediction in the spring and really was willing to back his prediction with the cash. You simply can't do it, and the baseball manager of to-day generally leaves the prophet business to the baseball writers. The trouble is that with so many good youngsters being developed in the minor leagues each year you cannot tell just how strong a big league club is going to be until you have seen it under fire for a month or so."

"I remember a year ago. I thought it was a cinch that Cleveland would be the club to chase the Tigers to the wire. We had finished only half a game behind Detroit the fall before, and as we figured that we strengthened in the weak spots I looked like a safe bet to pick the Naps to finish, one, two. Please forget to tell me where we did finish. Then there were Philadelphia and Boston. Most of us would-be prophets 'doped' them to finish in the second division. Bum steer again."

"To see, we had no reason to expect that Collins was going to prove such a whirlwind at the bat, on the bases and on the field. We had no reason to expect that Baker would turn out to be such a corking good third baseman, nor did we have anything to indicate that Krause was going to prove the best southpaw in the league."

Had I been picking the first-division teams I surely would not have left Chicago and St. Louis out, but I ok how they went back. St. Louis stood practically put on its 1908 team, and McKelvey was figured to have acted wisely. "Dope" went wrong again. That's all. After this, I will wait until July 1 before making any predictions, and then I'll put in a few 'ifs'."

"As for the Naps this year, we are going to do the best we can. We are going to work hard. We are going to be up on our toes every minute, and if we lose it will not be for want of trying. I will not stand for any shirkers, and in picking out new men for the team I have aimed to get men who do not know the meaning of the word shirk. As for the members of last year's team that we have kept, I have no reason to expect that each one will not work with every ounce of energy in his make-up. In fact, the boys have assured me that they are going to give me their best, and I can assure the fans that I will

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be there to see that every man who wears a Cleveland uniform gives us his best.

"We are going to have a new park, and it is up to me in a way to give the fans a team that will measure up. The fans to-day want life on the baseball field. Even if we lose, I don't think they will resent us if they see we are fighting for every run and every game. I have no criticism to make about previous managements. Armour had his troubles on account of accidents, and Larry lost two pennants, just because he had some of his best players crippled. When he first took hold of the Naps he would have won the championship if he had not been hurt himself, with half the rest of the team following him into the hospitals. All I can hope for is that I will not have the luck that Armour and Larry had. No team can win when its most valuable players are out of the game."

McGuire Touts "Speck" Harkness.

In Fred L. "Speck" Harkness, Manager McGuire thinks he has a better pitcher than Bobby Groom, who came East from the Portland club a year ago. McGuire watched him work four or five games before he wired the Cleveland club to buy him.

He liked his work the first time he saw him pitch, but to be sure it was no fluke day, for Harkness. He followed him around the circuit. The more he saw of him the better he liked him. Harkness is a native of Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo county, Cal., and has been playing professional ball since 1907, when he joined a mercantile team at Los Angeles in a small league, which paid salaries to its players.

"Speck," as Harkness is familiarly known, probably because of his freckles, was discovered by Russ Hall, a former star minor league infielder, who was chosen as manager of the Butte team of the Northwestern League in 1907. He signed Harkness for that club for the season of 1908. He made so good with Butte that Russ Hall had a deal on to dispose of the player to a major league club, but as the drafting season was on Manager McGredie, of the Portland club, claimed Harkness by this means, before Hall could complete his deal.

## AMMUNITION COMES FROM BUSH LEAGUES

The cry for trades and the clamor for new talent in baseball grows louder as the teams have begun to announce their spring training plans, and the anxiety of the fans will continue to grow until news begins to dribble in from the south.

Outside of the acquisition of Criger by the Highlanders no trades have been made, for the reason that nothing of value was on the market.

In connection with this clamor for

winter trades it might be well for the fans to bear in mind that a single player developed by any one team will do more toward winning a pennant than all the trades in the world.

The baseball public is often misled by what is supposed to be the great advantage in winter trades. As a rule, and baseball history will prove it, these midwinter deals have had comparatively little influence on the winning of pennants. It is the develop-

ment of young players that raises the flag.

Fans get impatient during the off season and wonder why this and that manager does not make deals that will bring good men to help in the winning of a pennant. It is nonsensical to think that a manager is going to trade a good player if he can avoid it. Good players are scarce. It would be just as foolish to trade a good player for a poor player. The logical conclusion, therefore, is that players must be developed.

**Youngsters Win Pennant.**  
When Baltimore won the pennant many years ago the team was laughed at when the season started. Ned Hanlon had a lot of untitled youngsters on the bench in the persons of McGraw, Jennings, Keeler and Keiley. They all suddenly developed and became wonders.

The old timers of the famous team merely served as a balance power. It was these four youngsters who won the pennant.

When the Giants won their first pennant under McGraw it was due to the unexpected development of Arthur Devlin as a wonderful third baseman and a hard hitter. At the same time Roger Bresnahan came to the front as a great catcher as well as a hard hitter. That wonderful increase in playing power with veterans like Donlin, McGinn, Dahlen, Browne and Gilbert to back them up sent the Giants to the top like a shot.

Chicago followed on the heels of the Giants as champions from the sudden development of "Miner" Brown as a great pitcher. He had worked in St. Louis before, but had never been regarded as a wonderful artist in the box. Then Johnny Evers suddenly poked his head above all others as a second baseman and a thinker. Joe Archer was substituted, but a patched machine, as a rule, never runs as well as the original combination.

Pittsburgh rose the first time on the shoulders of Hans Wagner, Tommy Leach and Fred Clark. With the same men on the team it fell. Their return to the championship last season was the result of the sudden and unexpected development of young talent. Hyatt came forward as a great pinch hitter and Adams stepped out as a pitching marvel. Toward the end of the season Adams practically carried the Pittsburgh team on his shoulders. In the early part of the season he was used as a game saver. What he did during the world's series is well known.

As a further proof of the assertion that it is the development of youngsters that brings a team out of the rut we might point to the Boston Americans. From the bottom they came up on the shoulders of Speaker. This youngster proved himself one of the best hitters that ever broke into the big leagues, and it was due to this sudden development of strength that the Boston Americans began to climb.

The Philadelphia Americans took a sudden shot upward upon the strength of Eddie Collins and Pitcher Krause. When the Athletics appeared here in the early spring the public actually felt sorry for them. Clegg Mack had a lot of "bush leaguers" on his hands, and for a while they most certainly played a picturesque brand of "bush league" ball. But when the youngsters began to develop the team was in the fight for the pennant.

Trades are all right in their way, but after all the manager must pick his pennant winning ammunition from the "bush leagues."

### AMENDMENT ADOPTED.

Steeplechase Rules Will Benefit Three-Year-Olds.

New York, February 19.—An important amendment to existing steeplechase rules was discussed and favorably passed upon at a recent meeting of a joint committee from the National Steeple Chase and Hunt Association and the Hunt's committee. It was agreed to amend the rules so as to permit three-year-olds to take part in steeplechases three months earlier than they do at present. In France three-year-olds are permitted to run in cross country races in July. Up to the adoption of the rule here three-year-olds could not race the jumps until October.

The new rule will make a market for horses which are somewhat outclassed in flat racing.

Another matter discussed by the Steeple Chase Committee was one defining a bona fide hunter. In England a rule was recently passed that to earn a certificate a hunter must be made to hunt as many jumps as possible in a hunt and must be hunted at least nine times.

## SOUTH ATLANTIC PRESIDENT



DR. D. E. WIBER,  
of Washington, D. C., who succeeds Theodore E. Straus as head of the local branch of the Amateur Athletic Union, is one of the most widely known men in the athletic movement of this section of the country, and has taken the stand for pure amateur athletics among the clubs.

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## WILLIE HOPPE SAYS FORM IS ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS



WILLIE HOPPE.

Billiard Champion Declares the Correct Style of  
Holding Cue and Making Stroke Is First  
Thing to Work For.

**HOPPE'S DON'TS.**  
Don't Imitate Another's Stroke.  
Don't Use Too Long a Bridge.  
Don't Flail With Cue.  
Don't Stand Stiffly at Table.  
Don't Hold Wrist Rigidly.  
Don't Lose Your Temper.  
Don't Mix Your Games.  
Don't Harden Your Muscles.  
Don't Miss Fresh Air and Sleep.

**BY WILLIE HOPPE.**  
The success of a billiard player depends to a large extent on the acquirement of a correct style both as to attitude, stroke and execution. To be sure a player must have as groundwork a keen eye, plenty of nerve force, pliable muscles, control of temper and enthusiasm. If a player possesses these qualities and then in addition has courage and correct methods, there is no reason why he should not achieve marked success. It is important that a proper style should be

learned early in the player's career, because it is difficult, if not impossible, to eradicate peculiarities and mannerisms that once become fastened on a player.

The first thing that a young player should be taught is how to bridge correctly, as a faulty manner of holding the cue is calculated to render ineffective the efforts of a man who would otherwise perform very creditably. In my opinion, the natural method is the best. Lay the left hand on the table so as to form an arch and give steadiness. Then raise the thumb, making a crotch between it and the first finger, in which the cue is rested. Take the butt of the cue lightly in the fingers, but do not close the hand tightly on it. In preparing for the stroke move the cue back and forward a few times to make sure that there is a free movement. There should be a supple movement of the wrist, as any rigidity of the wrist or forearm is sure to interfere with the stroke and destroy its accuracy.

As to stroke, every player must use his natural one. It is a serious error to copy the stroke of another player, because the muscular and nervous makeup of one player is dissimilar to that of any other, and their strokes

must necessarily differ. A player should therefore hit the ball with just the amount of force that he feels is necessary to send it to the proper distance.

A large, muscular man will necessarily have to tone down his stroke, while a player of less strength will use more force. But in all cases the player will graduate his stroke to suit the play, and imitation of another's stroke will surely complicate the style and retard the progress of the beginner.

Another essential to successful play is the selection of a proper cue. Some players find out what size and weight of cue is used by a leading player and select one like it. This is a mistake. Only on the basis of two players being equal in physical respects could they use the same weight cue or the same size tip. A player must pick out a cue that seems to him to be the proper weight and size. No one but the player himself can decide the point. He knows instinctively whether the cue is too heavy or too light, and whether the butt has the proper handle. A player should keep experimenting until he gets a cue that completely fills all his requirements, and then stick to it.

Constant changing of cues is an indication that the player is out of form. If a player constantly papers his tip and looks searchingly at the cue every time he misses, depend upon it there is something the matter with his stroke and style, rather than with the cue. If a man has a correct method of play and other qualifications, depend on it he will not have much trouble in selecting a cue to do the work with.

Attitude at the table is a point that must be taken into consideration by the player who expects to become proficient in the great game. Every player cannot be graceful while playing, but anyone can avoid the error of stiff or rigid positions while in the act of shooting. Naturally, while bending over the table to reach the cue ball in a difficult position, a player is at a disadvantage, for it puts a strain on certain muscles, tending to render the attitude unsteady.

But in the majority of shots, where the cue ball is within easy reach, there is no good reason why the player should not assume an easy, graceful position, calculated to give him the free use of all his arm and back muscles, and enable him to hit the ball with the requisite force and precision.

Men like Vignaux, Schaefer and Ives were noted for the easy grace of their attitudes at the tables and the freedom, accuracy and delicate precision of their strokes. It is impossible for a player to become proficient who has a strained, rigid and uncomfortable position at the table. Such an attitude will assuredly interfere with the accuracy of the stroke, result in mis-cues and generally demoralize a player. The importance, therefore, of the correct position at the table can readily be appreciated.

No player should use too long a bridge for that puts an additional strain on the eye and is apt to result in inaccuracy of aim. The bridge should be measured according to the vision of the player, and any one should be able to judge just how far from the cue ball to make the bridge. It is just as big a mistake to make too short a bridge, for in that case the stroke is restricted and the proper force cannot be imparted to the ball. The stroke should be clean and go straight through, and this applies to any kind of a shot, draw or follow.

## New World's Mark for Century Dash

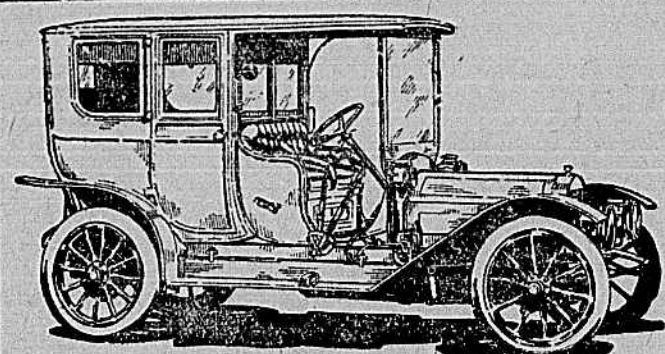


J. DONALDSON,  
Who broke the world's record for 100 yards, covering the distance in 9.34 seconds.

Johannesburg, February 19.—Donalson, the South African sprinter, to striking broke the world's professional record for 100 yards, defeating Arthur Peacock, the world's professional champion, Meyer, Australia, and C. Howway, the A. in the race, in 9.34 seconds. Donaldson was by two and a half yards, less the great yard separating the second and third men.

By a clean stroke I mean one which the cue follows the ball with any restrictive jerk or hesitation. That is the only kind of stroke which will bring ultimate success.

Another error of execution is much flailing with the cue prior to striking the ball. This is no annoyance to the onlookers, but is an impediment to the player. The best way to avoid this error is to have the shot studied before the bridge is formed. In this situation it is complicated by a situation it out while standing erect, before making the bridge. Then the cue should not be drawn back and forth more than a few times, and this for the purpose of assuring it of movement and accuracy of



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